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TRIBUTE TO TOHRU UCHIDA

It is almost incredible that Tohru Uchida has reached sixty years of age and is going to receive the tribute of his friends and students to commemorate this occasion. My memory is still vivid of an experience at Misaki Marine Biological Station on a day in 1927 when I was called on without notice by Prof. S. Hatta of Hokkaido University. He came down to Misaki from Tokyo on purpose to hear my opinion on the prospective chair of systematic zoology in his new department in the College of Science of the university. Without much deliberation, I mentioned the name of Tohru Uchida, a young graduate student in Tokyo University, who might be the most suitable candidate to the chair. Although my knowledge of Uchida was then too limited, I had been impressed by the series of his papers on medusae. Prof. Hatta responded with the remark that my suggestion coincided with the one given previously to him by Prof. S. Goto under whom Uchida had been studying. Shortly afterwards, I was informed of Uchida's acceptance of the candidacy to the chair. Some months later, he left Japan for Europe with his young wife to prepare himself for his new duty.

He stayed in Germany for two years, first at the University of Munich with Prof. K.v. Frisch, and later at Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biology at Berlin with Prof. R. Goldschmidt. He came home in summer, 1931, and appointed professor in Hokkaido University shortly afterwards.

Uchida's interest in taxonomic studies was so intense, and the scope of his researches was so wide as to cover Hydrozoa, Scyphozoa, Anthozoa, Acarina, Asteroidea and Archiannelida. He published numerous papers especially on coelenterates and water-mites. Furthermore, he has been able to get capable successors specialized in the study of each of these groups from among his students. He also made experimental studies on the sexuality of amphibians. More recently, he wrote papers on the psychology of bees and dogs.

Uchida had been too versatile and his interest too manysided to limit his activities within the ordinary academic circle. Being a keen observer and skillful writer, he had contributed to newspapers and magazines many popular articles of nature study. These articles were subsequently incorporated into several attractive books of which some, at least, had a good circulation, and one was awarded a prize for the excellence of contents and mastery of presentation. He is also an experienced judge of dog-breeds and a good critique of Sumô tournaments. He has never been contented with remaining as a mere amateur in any of these diverse fields. This testifies to his inborn capacity and alertness which have never decayed with age. Uchida is certainly a *perpetual prodigy*.

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